

Leavenworth Ranger Station, Office No. 2084
Leavenworth Ranger District
Wenatchee National Forest
U. S. Highway 2
Leavenworth
Chelan County
Washington

HABS No. WA-193-A

HABS
WAS:
4-LEAVWO,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

HABS
WASH
4-LEAVWO,
1A-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. WA-193-A

LEAVENWORTH RANGER STATION, OFFICE #2084

Location: Leavenworth Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, U.S Highway 2, Leavenworth, Chelan County, Washington.

Significance: The Leavenworth Ranger Station Office #2084 is part of a thematic group listed on the National Register of Historic Places, comprised of U. S. Forest Service administrative structures built between 1933-1942 under the auspices of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on Forest Service lands in the States of Washington and Oregon. Constructed in 1938-39 by the CCC (with the assistance of temporary Forest Service employees), the Leavenworth Ranger Station Office is significant for its association with a period of dynamic change in Forest Service administrative policy, a physical example of the Forest Service's transition from custodial supervision to extensive management and resource development, and with national work-relief programs like the CCC, and the embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the rustic architectural idiom developed by the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest during the Depression era for their administrative buildings.

Typical of the Region 6 rustic-style was the Leavenworth Ranger Station's lavish use of wood in an attempt to blend the office with its natural setting. Other character-defining features include gable roofs and dormers, multi-paned windows symmetrically placed, projecting porches with timber posts and brackets, and decorative shutters with pine tree cutouts.

Description:

Architectural Character

Despite the T-shape addition onto the north elevation and the adoption of a decorative Bavarian motif, the Leavenworth Ranger Station Office exhibits definitive stylistic features indicative of the rustic idiom developed by the Forest Service and the CCC for buildings constructed in the National Forests in the Pacific Northwest during the Depression era. Character-defining elements of the Region 6 rustic style embodied in this office include heavy squared timber posts with brackets supporting two gable

projecting porches, symmetrically placed multi-paned windows, decorative shutters with pine tree cutouts, medium pitched gable roof and dormers, and clapboard siding.

Condition of Fabric

The original building is generally in good condition and exhibits no noticeable structural or weatherization failures.

Exterior

1) Dimensions: The original four-room office measured 54'-0" x 27'-6". See "Physical History, Original Plans and Construction" for room-by-room dimensions.

2) Foundation: The foundation is poured concrete.

3) Walls: Exterior cladding is 1x12 horizontal clapboard extending to the eaves. Sheets of exterior plywood cover the original vertical boards on gable ends and dormers, "half-timbered" with 1x4's. Masonite panels with Bavarian trim have been placed below the mullion windows on the front facade.

4) Structural System, Framing: Coventional wood frame construction, including load bearing and non-load bearing wall systems, floor and roof framing systems.

5) Porches: Two porches reflect the "rustic" style typically constructed by CCC-era crews for Forest Service administrative buildings. The gabled porch on the south (main) facade is centrally situated above the main entry, supported by two heavy squared timber posts with heavy curved squared brackets extending from the platform surface to the scrolled lintel. The porch gable pediment is partially enclosed by three hand-routed square timbers arranged in a spoke-like pattern. The front door is a single leaf wood panel type with a twelve-light window flanked by similar side window panels. The porch surface is an open concrete platform faced with flagstone.

The gabled porch on the west facade is situated over a side entry similar to the main porch but on a smaller scale and less elaborate. The porch is supported by square timber posts and a plain, bracketed gable pediment. The single leaf wood panel door is not original.

6) Chimney: Original concrete and stone chimney is located on the north slope of the roof.

7) Windows: The mullion windows on the main (south) facade consist of two sets of three six-over-six double hung sashes, symmetrically placed, with hand-routed surrounds. The other facades have similar mullion windows,

symmetrically placed individually or in groups, with six-over-six or eight-over-eight double hung sashes, and decorative shutters with pine tree cutouts. The dormer windows have been enclosed with exterior plywood, lattice appliqued. The porch gable pediment has been replicated to scale above the dormer windows, and wood window grilles with pine tree cutouts have been appended to the dormer window surrounds.

8) Roof:

Shape, Coverings

The roofs are medium to high pitched gable type. The original wood shingle roof materials have been replaced with split shakes.

Eaves

Projecting eaves and verges were added when the Bavarian decorative motif was adopted. Routed brackets were introduced, and narrow scrolled barge boards were applied along the previously plain fascia on all the gables.

9) Description of Interior:

Floor Plans

Photographic copies of the original plans for the Four-Room Office (Standard Plan 122) are included herein. The dimensions of each room are noted under "Physical History: Original Plans and Construction".

Stairways

A stairway connects the basement, main floor and 2nd story.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes

The lobby, general office and the District Ranger's Office have retained their original stained, knotty pine paneling. All the rooms, however, have had their ceilings sprayed with acoustical "sparkled" material, and fluorescent lighting has been installed.

Openings

See "Physical History: Alterations and Additions" for modifications to original doors and doorways, and changes to the original lobby counter and the opening between the lobby and general office.

History:

Physical History

1) Date of Construction: Leavenworth Ranger Station, Office #2084, 1938-39.

2) Architect: Designed by architects in the U.S. Forest Service, Region 6 office, Portland, Oregon, under the supervision of James Frankland, Assistant Regional Forester. The plans were completed November 17, 1937 (revised November 27-December 6, 1937).

3) **Original and Subsequent Owners:** The Leavenworth Ranger Station Office #2084 was built for the USDA-Wenatchee National Forest and has been owned by the U.S. Government and administered by the Wenatchee National Forest since construction.

4) **Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:** Built by temporary Forest Service employees and members of the 983rd Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Fort Lewis District, located at Camp Icicle near Leavenworth, under the supervision of Commander Joseph E. Blum.

5) **Original Plans and Construction:** The original plans were based on Standard Plan No. 122; a four-room office facility measuring 54'-0" x 27'6", with a 13' x 20' Ranger Office, 13' x 16' Drafting Room, 13' x 14' Dispatcher (Fire Control) Office, 13' x 20' General Office, and a 11' x 13' Lobby. A stairwell leads to a storage basement and a 2nd story dormitory. The original cost for construction/building materials was \$2800.00.

In 1964, a T-shaped, one story, compatible addition was constructed onto the north elevation. In 1968, the town of Leavenworth adopted a Bavarian theme, and the Forest Service agreed to participate. Material additions were completed in 1971 in a Bavarian motif which altered the original appearance of the building but did not adversely affect the integrity of the building's historic architectural elements. Except for the structural addition of the roof trim, the new materials covered rather than replaced the original fabrics and features.

6) **Alterations and additions:** As indicated above, the alterations/additions to the subject building have either been compatible and/or do not significantly affect the integrity of the original architectural features. The T-shaped, one story addition to the north elevation, with its medium pitched gable roof, horizontal clapboard siding, plain battens on gable ends, and double hung sash windows, was patterned after the original building.

The adoption of a Bavarian decorative motif consisted of projecting verges and eaves, routed brackets, and narrow scrolled barge boards along the previously plain fascia on all gables. The original wood shingle materials were replaced with split shakes. Sheets of exterior plywood cover the vertical boards on the gable ends, "half-timbered" with 1'x4's. Masonite panels with Bavarian trim have been placed below the mullion windows on the front facade. The dormer windows are enclosed with exterior latticed plywood with porch gable pediment treatment replicated to scale on the dormers. The wood window grilles with pine tree cutouts have been appended to the dormer window surrounds.

The interior of the original office building has been significantly modified. Two doors in the front lobby have been permanently sealed; one connected the lobby with the District Ranger's Office, the other connected the lobby to the main hallway. A glass map case covers the former door to the Ranger's Office (in the Ranger's Office a stained, knotty pine bookcase covers the former door). The original door connecting the lobby to the hall is covered with plywood.

A wooden counter originally extended the entire width of the lobby, dividing the lobby and the general office. While the original ceiling girders (with pine tree logos) and curved wall posts and end cases remain, the counter has been replaced with a smaller, shorter version that allows for passage between the lobby and general office; in effect, combining the two rooms into one.

The Dispatcher's (Fire Control) Office has a "new" door where originally a closet was located, connecting the office with the hallway.

The Drafting Room is now the Computer and Reproduction Center. The room has been divided by a glass partition to provide a dust-proof environment for the computers. The entire room is paneled with acoustical tiles, and the ceiling has been sprayed with acoustical "sparkled" material. The original double hung sash windows remain intact. The closets were removed to accommodate a new hallway connecting the original building to the T-shape addition constructed onto the north elevation.

The Ranger's Office, the lobby, and the general office have retained their stained, knotty pine paneling. The ceilings of all the rooms have been sprayed with acoustical "sparkled" material, and fluorescent lights have been installed.

The second story dormitory has been converted into office space. The basement is used for storage and office space.

Historical Setting

The Leavenworth Ranger Station Office #2084 was constructed in 1938-39 for the Wenatchee National Forest by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and temporary Forest Service employees at the cost of \$2800.00. Most of the buildings at the Leavenworth Ranger Station were constructed by the CCC during the 1930's, with several buildings reportedly constructed in the late 1920's by the Forest Service.

The northern portion of the Wenatchee National Forest, which includes the Leavenworth Ranger District, was initially

established as part of the Washington Forest Reserve in 1897. The area was administered as part of the Washington Forest-Eastern Division until 1907, when it combined with adjacent public lands to form the Yakima Division, soon thereafter called the Wenatchee Division of the Washington National Forest with headquarters located in Wenatchee. In 1908, the Wenatchee Division was divided into two forests along the summit of the Cascade Mountains, and the Wenatchee and Snoqualmie National Forests were established.

That same year (in 1908) the Supervisor's Office (S.O.) of the Wenatchee National Forest was moved from Wenatchee to Leavenworth, where it remained until 1920 when it was transferred back to Wenatchee.

During the period the S.O. was in Leavenworth numerous guard stations and ranger districts were established, including the creation of the Icicle District with its headquarters for several years located on Ranger Road near Leavenworth.

The relocation of the S.O. to Wenatchee in 1920 marked additional changes in Forest administration, including the establishment of a separate Leavenworth Ranger District with headquarters at the former Icicle District station on Ranger Road. The Leavenworth Ranger Station reportedly moved to its current location later in the decade.

As the Leavenworth Station's responsibilities expanded there became a need for a District office building. In September, 1928, the Forest Service leased land from the Great Northern Railway to expand the station boundaries and construct an office. Plans for a 24' x 30', three-room office were finalized in February, 1929, with construction completed the following year (in 1930).

The accelerated expansion of the Leavenworth Ranger Station in the early 1930's coincided with a dynamic transition in the Forest Service's mandate and the establishment of the CCC. The construction of Forest Service, Region 6 rustic-style buildings at the Leavenworth Ranger Station, primarily by the CCC, reflected a national policy that promoted expansion of Forest Service facilities and responsibilities during the Depression. In 1932, the Forest Service initiated an extensive, ten-year national plan for resource development which marked a shift of emphasis from primarily custodial supervision to extensive management and resource development. The CCC provided the work force to build the necessary new facilities.

Officially known as the Emergency Conservation Work program, the CCC was established by the Roosevelt administration and Congress in April, 1933, and had a significant impact on the physical development of the National Forests in the Pacific

Northwest. CCC camps were rapidly established in National Forests throughout the Northwest.

Camp Icicle near Leavenworth was established as a summer tent camp in April, 1934, initially occupied by Company 931. A year later, the 931st was replaced by the 983rd, and the camp was upgraded to a year-around facility.

Illustrative of the Forest Service's new administrative policy and use of CCC personnel was their purchase in September, 1937, of a strip of land that fronted the new scenic highway (U. S. 2) through Leavenworth. The Forest Service planned to expand the station's boundaries in order to construct a new office. The original office was inadequate to handle the District's increased work load. Plans for the new office were completed in November, 1937. The 983rd Company of the CCC from Camp Icicle (with the assistance of temporary Forest Service employees) began construction of the Leavenworth Ranger Station Office the following February, and completed the building in 1939.

Sources

Banko, Charles. Former District Ranger, Leavenworth Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest. Personal communication, Leavenworth, Washington, October-November, 1991.

Carter, Susan. Forest Service employee, Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee National Forest. Personal communication, Wenatchee, Washington. October-November 1991.

Civilian Conservation Corps: Camps and Companies in the Pacific Northwest, 1933-1942 (Working Draft), May, 1986.

Farnsworth, Ben. Former employee (and member of Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp Icicle), Wenatchee National Forest. Personal communication, Leavenworth, Washington, November 1991.

Hiler, Mike. Forest Service employee, Naches Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest. Personal communication, Naches, Washington, November 1991.

Krafft, Katheryn. USDA-Forest Service Fire Lookouts on the Wenatchee National Forest. National Register of Historic Places -- Thematic Nomination. Wenatchee National Forest, 1988.

Leavenworth Ranger Station Office, Leavenworth Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest:

LEAVENWORTH RANGER STATION, OFFICE NO. 2084
HABS NO. WA-193-A (page 8)

Permanent File - Improvements, 1928-30 (closed 1939). On file, Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee, Washington.

Buildings and Structures file, 1939. On file, Leavenworth Ranger Station Office, Leavenworth, Washington.

Morris, Pat:

"CCC's Camp Icicle was Home for 100s". Leavenworth Echo, March 1, 1973.

Long-time resident, Leavenworth, Washington. Personal communication, November 1991 (information from several articles in Leavenworth Echo, 1928-1938).

National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni. A Short History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, no date.

Records of the Office of the Director, Liquidation Unit, 1933-52, Box 62, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

R-6 Internal Management Guidelines for Depression-era Buildings-Draft, U. S. Forest Service, no date.

Throop, E. Gail:

U. S. Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Washington and Oregon built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. National Register of Historic Places -- Thematic Nomination, Leavenworth Ranger Station Office #2084. U. S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Portland, Oregon, 1984.

A Characteristic Expression -- A Thematic Evaluation of Forest Service Depression-Era Administrative Buildings in the Pacific Northwest. U. S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Portland, Oregon, 1984.

USDA-Forest Service, Region 6, Four-Room Office, Standard Plan 122, Sheets 1-5, 1937.

Historian:
David W. Harvey
Northwest Preservation Resources
November 1991